

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4674

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - TEXTILE WORKERS

REF: STATE 076035

1. THE ROUGHLY 25,000 TEXTILE FACTORY WORKERS ARE 100 PERCENT ORGANIZED -- AT LEAST FORMALLY. NATIONAL LABOR/MANAGEMENT ACCORDS COVER TEXTILE WORKERS. THERE ARE OF COURSE THOUSANDS OF UNPROTECTED HOME WORKERS ENGAGED IN FINISHING OPERATIONS ON PIECEWORK BASIS.

2. THE APRISTA-LED CONFEDERATION OF PERUVIAN WORKERS (CTP) COMPLETELY CONTROLLED TEXTILE UNIONS PRIOR TO THE 1968 MILITARY COUP. THE FEDERATION OF TEXTILE WORKERS HAD BEEN AND CONTUNUES TO BE THE MAJOR PILLAR OF CTP STRENGTH AND MOST CTP LEADERS HAVE COME FROM THE TEXTILE FEDERATION. IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER, GOP EFFORTS TO ERODE THE APRISTA HOLD ON PERU'S TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HAVE HAD AN EFFECT EVEN IN THE TEXTILE AREA. AT ONE POINT THE CTP, ACCORDING TO ITS OWN ACCOUNT, LOST FULLY 50 PERCENT OF THE TEXTILE UNIONS TO COMMUNIST AND GOP-LED GROUPS.

3. IN 1974 COMMUNIST TEXTILE LEADERS ATTEMPTED TO GAIN GOP RECOGNITION FOR A NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEXTILE WORKERS TO RIVAL THE CTP FEDERATION. ALTHOUGH ONLY FIVE UNIONS ARE NEEDED TO FORM A LABOR FEDERATION AND COMMUNIST LEADERS CLAIMED THE SUPPORT OF MORE THAN 60 OF THE 150 TEXTILE UNIONS, THE GOP TOOK NO ACTION.

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THEREFORE, THE CTP AFFILIATED FEDERATION OF TEXTILE WORKERS RE-

MAINS ONLY FEDERATION WITH JURIDICAL STATUS. CTP LEADERS NOW
CLAIM THAT THE COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT HAS PEAKED AND
THAT TEXTILE UNIONS ARE REAFFILIATING TO THE CTP.

4. APPROXIMATE CURRENT DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS IN THE CATEGORIES
LISTED BY AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT WOULD BE 75
PERCENT DEMOCRATIC, 20 PERCENT COMMUNIST, AND 5 PERCENT OTHER.
DEAN

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